

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. For instance, new claim 4 is supported by the present specification at page 1, line 34 to page 2, line 11 as well as Examples 1-4 of the present specification. New claim 5 is supported by the present specification at page 3, line 5. New claim 6 is supported by the present specification at page 3, lines 26-27. New claim 7 is supported by the present specification at page 4, lines 14-17. Lastly, new claims 8 and 9 are supported by the present specification at page 5, lines 6-8 as well as originally filed claim 2. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by JP 2001-118568 (hereinafter referred to as JP '568). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. JP '568 published on April 27, 2001 in Japan. The present application, Serial Number 10/082,315 was filed in the United States on February

26, 2002 and priority was claimed to Japanese Application No. 2001-053903, filed on February 28, 2001 in Japan. Attached hereto, please find a Verified English Translation of Japanese Priority Application No. 2001-053903. The present claims are fully supported by the priority application, thus, Applicants are entitled to the benefit of the February 28, 2001 filing date of the prior art application. This antedates the publication date of JP '568. Accordingly, JP '568 does not qualify as prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over JP 2001-226112 (hereinafter referred to as JP '112). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

JP '112 published in Japan on August 21, 2001. However, as indicated above, the present application claims the benefit and is entitled the benefit of the February 28, 2001 filing date of priority application JP 2001-053903. Accordingly, JP '112 does not qualify as prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims define subject matter that is patentable over the

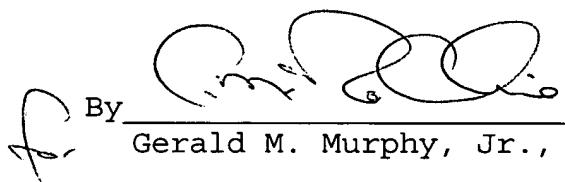
cited art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Craig A. McRobbie (Reg. No. 42,874) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Verified English Translation of JP 2001-053903

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